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APPENDIX TWO

AGREED MANAGEMENT POLICY

Referred to in the foregoing Agreement between the National Trust for Scotland
and Scottish Natural Heritage

This Policy has been mutually agreed on by the Owners and S.N.H. and forms part of the foregoing Agreement. It sets out the special scientific interest of the Land, the objectives of management and the policies the Owners and S.N.H. have agreed to pursue in managing the Land to protect its international and national natural heritage and scientific interest. It may be varied from time to time by mutual agreement but initially the parties agree to the following:-

1. Natural Heritage Value

Mar Lodge Estate lies wholly within the Core Montane Zone as defined by the Cairngorms Working Party Report 1992, an area internationally recognised as the most important nature conservation area in the British Isles.

The Cairngorms area, including parts of Mar Lodge Estate, is a candidate Special Protection Area (SPA) under the Wild Birds Directive for its range of bird species associated with the Caledonian Pine forest, moorland and montane plateaux. Two high-level lochs on the Estate are also designated as non-bird Ramsar sites under the Ramsar Convention.

Large parts of Mar Lodge Estate contain habitats listed in the Annexes to the European Habitats and Species Directive, including Caledonian Pine forest, dry heaths, juniper formations, siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands, alpine and sub-alpine heaths, North Atlantic wet heaths and Siliceous scree.

Approximately 7,085 ha (17,500 acres) of Mar Lodge are part of the Cairngorms NNR designated for the internationally important montane, moorland, bogland and native pinewood habitats and their associated wide range of floral and fauna communities.

In addition, 42% of the Estate is designated as SSSI (the Cairngorms and the Eastern Cairngorms) for the internationally significant geological/geomorphological features and further nationally important high plateaux habitats and species, remnant Caledonian Pine forest and associated fauna and flora.

The Estate is of national importance for its landscape qualities, and includes a large proportion of 2 National Scenic Areas (NSA). The northern half is part of the Cairngorms Mountains NSA while the southern and eastern areas are included in the Deeside and Lochnagar NSA. The 2 are co-joining and have much in common, characterised by open and spacious land forms (both moorland and high barren plateaux) which are cleft by steep-sided and glacially carved glens and rocky corries.

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Each contains important remnant pinewoods which are a key feature at Mar Lodge.

The recreational importance of the Estate is high and is intimately bound to the ecological and landscape interest it contains. There is a true wild land experience provided by the core montane zone while the easily visited but scenically beautiful lower areas provide recreational value by providing a wide range of countryside experience.

2. Management Aims

- (i) The principal and overriding aim is to manage the Land in a sustainable manner, for the benefit of the nation, ensuring the continuing conservation and restoration of its internationally important geology, flora, fauna, wild land quality and archaeological value.
- (ii) Further, to ensure appropriate public access to the Land, subject to the maintenance of landscape and nature conservation interests.
- (iii) To manage the Land as a Highland sporting estate in a manner which is in harmony with the above aims.
- (iv) The Owners will favour the continuing use of existing buildings as required including the Lodge itself, providing this does not compromise the wild land quality or conservation of the rest of the Land.
- (v) The Owners will share with the public an appreciation of the issues involved in managing the Land as a wild land area, through appropriate interpretation and education.
- (vi) To aim to manage the land in a way that enhances the social, economic and cultural well-being of the local community.
- (vii) In managing the Land, the Owners will recognise that it forms part of the wider Cairngorms area.

3. Management Policies


The Owners and S.N.H. agree that, so far as they are obliged to under the terms hereof, the Land will be managed in accordance with the Management Aims detailed together with the policies and prescriptions in the Management Plan (attached hereto) and referred to at Clause 4 of the foregoing Agreement and thereto that:-

For the above purposes the parties agree to the following initial arrangement to be reviewed and modified as necessary and in the light of experience from time to time:-

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- (i) The Owners who retain full responsibility for the estate management of the Land, shall determine what maintenance operations, repairs or new works appear necessary other than those specified in the annual work programmes referred to in Clause 4 of the foregoing Agreement and shall, without prejudice to Sub-clause 2(c) of the Agreement notify S.N.H. of details (a) in cases where they consider that under the Agreement the whole or part of the cost should fall to be met by S.N.H., and (b) in other cases where the interest of S.N.H. might be affected, for example, on account of risk of disturbance to animal or plant life.
- (ii) S.N.H. shall, without undue delay after any such notification, either signify its assent to the execution of the proposed work and its readiness to recoup its share of the cost, or, alternatively shall send a representative to discuss the matter on the spot, confirmation in writing being given of any decision so reached. Action on all such matters is for the Owners. Where works by an outside agency (eg. an electricity undertaking) prove necessary, the Owners will make with such agencies only such arrangements as may be agreed by S.N.H. where such works are prejudicial to the Natural Heritage interest.
- (iii) S.N.H. shall give advance notification to the Owners of any projected scientific work which may affect the estate management or other Owners' interests in the Land, relevant to the above interests.
- (iv) The Owners shall use their best endeavours to prevent unauthorised persons from killing, injuring, damaging, or taking the plant or animal life within the Land, and may use such of their powers as it may consider necessary and appropriate for this purpose. If byelaws are deemed necessary S.N.H. shall obtain the Owner's consent in advance regarding their provisions, but without prejudice always to S.N.H.'s statutory rights and powers.

Likewise, in the event of the Owners promoting byelaws over all or part of the Land, they shall obtain the consent of S.N.H. in like manner.

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